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Fortunately, conditions are not so aggravated in America as in the British cities (where, by the way, the distressing situation cannot be attributed to immigrants), and, as the author suggests, the thorough physical examination of school children begun at once and followed up consistently may obviate the necessity for the state socialism that Alfred Mosely deplors and condones in the case of Great Britain.

It is worth while to call attention to the workmanship on the book. The chapters have sub-headings significant and interesting. For instance, Children's Ailments (Chapter VII), their running page headings and frequent use of italics in topical divisions, of indentation, numbering paragraphs, index, and other devices all serve to bring out the author's message.

WILLIAM H. ALLEN.

New York.

Hamilton, Angus. *Afghanistan*. Pp. xxi, 562. Price, \$5.00. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, Importers. London: William Heinemann, 1906.

The lack of a comprehensive study of Afghanistan and its conditions has been at length supplied by Angus Hamilton in his large volume recently issued, and imported by Charles Scribner's Sons. The work required two years to be spent in its preparation and the result is most satisfactory, as the book contains much information under historical, geographical, ethnographical, commercial and political groupings. The climate, country and towns are well described, the railroad approach is accurately and minutely dwelt upon, as are also the products and minerals, exports and imports. The author, by special permission, dedicates the volume to Lord Curzon, of Kedleston, "who, by the splendour of his gifts and the wisdom of his rule has left an indelible and memorable impression upon India."

The relations of Russia to Great Britain and Afghanistan, and all borderland encroachments, are plainly set forth. The situation of Afghanistan as a buffer state, an entrance to India, will probably lead, the author believes, to encounters in the future as it has in the past. Meanwhile, despite existing treaties, the author regards His Highness Habib Ullah, Amir of Afghanistan, as an uncertain quantity in the problem of Anglo-Afghan affairs.

The illustrations are numerous and interesting, a picture of Lord Curzon being the frontispiece. A map on a generous scale serves to elucidate the text.

Philadelphia.

LAURA BELL.

Hamilton, C. H. *A Treatise on the Law of Taxation by Special Assessments*. Pp. lxxv, 937. Price, \$7.50. Chicago: George I. Jones, 1907.

With the exception of the work of Mr. Welty, in 1886, in which he devoted two chapters to street improvements and assessments, and cited only one hundred and seventy cases, this is a pioneer work upon the subject of special assessments. The necessity for a work of this kind is found in the fact that street improvements have become a necessity, and experience shows that the